

- 628 amongst the Afghans, and after a time the parties are brought  
674 together and made to swear peace on the Koran. The crime  
of murder is rare, and the readiness to spill blood on slight  
623 occasions so noticeable among the Afghans is unknown. No  
public measure can be carried out except by general agree-  
ment, the details being left for the Jushteros to arrange.  
179 The communities in the lower part of Shinkari, being more  
exposed to Afghan influence, and having been longer con-  
verted to Mahomedanism, have lost many of their character-  
istic customs; but the remoter valleys of Chilas, Gor, Darel,  
and in a lesser degree Tangir, are probably little changed from  
934 what they were two hundred years ago. A very singular  
custom exists in these valleys, by which the sexes are kept  
strictly apart during the summer, from May till September.  
The custom is apparently very ancient, and any attempt to  
evade it is punished by fine; the old women of the family  
being specially charged with the responsibility of seeing that  
165 the rule is observed. Great difficulty is said to be expe-  
rienced in rearing children in Chilas. The great mortality  
among them is ascribed to the climate, but it is more prob-  
ably due to too close intermarriage.  
462 Agriculture is left entirely to the women, with the excep-  
tion of ploughing, which demands more strength than they  
can afford. In summer the men spin wool and attend to their  
flocks on the mountain pastures; but in winter the duty of  
caring for the herds is relegated to the women.  
667 Slavery is a recognised institution in all the Shinkari  
republics—a matter in which they contrast unfavourably with  
the Afghans and Neermchas of the Indus Valley, among whom  
it is unknown. Prisoners taken in war, and the children born  
of slave parents, form the servile class.